Working Committee (TCWC) of the representatives of the three countries was constituted. The first meeting of the TCWC was held in Yangon on 24th-25th February, 2005. The TCWC prepared a draft MoU to be signed by the three oil Ministers after the approval of their respective Governments. However, the approval of the MoU has been delayed on account of differences between India and Bangladesh over one preambular paragraph in the draft MoU. Minister (P&NG) visited Dhaka on 5th September, 2005 to discuss issues relating to the draft MoU. These issues continue to be under consideration by the Governments of Bangladesh and India even as India explores with Myanmar other options of importing natural gas into India from Myanmar.

The Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been examining the setting up of a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the available gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They have designated ADB as the lead consultant and development partner. India has been invited to join the project it has agreed to do so, initially as an 'Observer'. Minister (P&NG) has been invited to the next Steering Committee Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in Ashgabat in January, 2006.

**Availability of LPG**

†1481. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of areas in the country having cooking gas facility, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering to make the remaining areas equipped with cooking gas facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As on 1.10.2005, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were serving about 8.72 crore LPG customers covering approximately 45% of the population of the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below). OMCs

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are free to set up LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations. However, as a matter of policy, Government have advised them to concentrate their future expansion plan in semi urban/rural areas of the country.

***Statement***

*State-wise percentage of population covered by LPG as on 1.10.2005*

(Provisional)

| States/UTs | No. of LPG customers/ household | %Population covered by LPG |
|---|---|---|
| **States** | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 9,744,952 | 57.54 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 103,865 | 48.24 |
| Assam | 1,577,873 | 31.97 |
| Bihar | 2,052,385 | 14.84 |
| Chhattisgarh | 861,901 | 21.10 |
| Delhi | 3,835,552 | 100.00 |
| Goa | 369,814 | 100.00 |
| Gujarat | 4,819,228 | 49.46 |
| Haryana | 2,850,247 | 76.83 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1,113,361 | 91.59 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 1,230,241 | 78.83 |
| Jharkhand | 887,121 | 18.44 |
| Karnataka | 4,846,640 | 46.77 |
| Kerala | 4,612,010 | 68.08 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3,537,781 | 32.24 |
| Maharashtra | 11,731,812 | 59.34 |
| Manipur | 193,835 | 51.89 |
| Meghalaya | 87,429 | 20.74 |
| Mizoram | 164,202 | 92.40 |
| Nagaland | 114,428 | 35.08 |

| States/UTs | No. of LPG customers/ household | %Population covered by LPG |
|---|---|---|
| Orissa | 1,271,320 | 16.58 |
| Punjab | 4,100,940 | 94.28 |
| Rajasthan | 3,578,137 | 38.63 |
| Sikkim | 92,058 | 80.00 |
| Tamil Nadu | 7,979,203 | 54.98 |
| Tripura | 198,992 | 29.86 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 8,932,485 | 34.93 |
| Uttaranchal | 1,350,547 | 84.32 |
| West BengaL | 4,350,387 | 27.67 |
| SUB-TOTAL | 86,588,746 | 44.73 |
| **Union Territories** | | |
| A. & Nicobar | 40,663 | 52.52 |
| Chandigarh | 305,170 | 100.00 |
| D & Nagra Haveli | 27,863 | 60.66 |
| Daman/Diu | 25,346 | 70.49 |
| Lakshadweep | 2,952 | 29.69 |
| Pondicherry | 206,852 | 95.53 |
| SUB-TOTAL | 608,846 | 100.00 |
| ALL INDIA | 87,197,592 | 44.93 |

**Funds for production of petroleum products**

†1482. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for the production of petroleum products during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of achievements made actually in the production so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.